

February 9th 2020 - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

YOU ARE THE SALT
of the earth
AND THE LIGHT
of the world
MATTHEW 5:13-16



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, February 8

9:00am † Eduardo Genoves
4:30pm † Luis & Tranquilina
Baron

Sunday, February 9

8:00am † Victor Apalit
10:00am † Gene Genaro Tongson
12:00pm † Arturo Martinez

Monday, February 10

9:00am † Bill Sacramento

Tuesday, February 11

9:00am † Diane Jean Shasky &
family

Wednesday, February 12

9:00am † Lyla Talavera

Thursday, February 13

9:00am † Benny Falcon

Friday, February 14

9:00am † Albert & Michael Grag-
nani

Saturday, February 15

9:00am St. John Parishioners
4:30pm † Barbara Bardaro

OUR LADY
OF LOURDES

February 11th



SECOND COLLECTION

Today's second collection is for
the **2020 Archdiocesan Annual
Appeal.**

Parish Assessment \$ 39,090.00
YTD we paid: \$ 1,691.00
Balance we owe: \$ 37,399.00

Kindly consider helping meet our
goal. Thank you for your contin-
ued generous support.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

COLECTA DE LA SEMANA PASADA

January 27th 2020 - February 2nd, 2020

Tuesday's Spec coll.\$ 110.00
Tues. On-line giving\$ 5.00
Weekend Offering.....\$ 2,970.80
Weekend On-line giving...\$ 410.00
Reserve Fund.....\$ 2,068.00
Reserve On-line giving....\$ 105.00

From the Desk of the Pastor

The Beatitudes, which immediately precede today's Gospel, describe an inner disposition of God's blessed, or happy, people. Today, the focus is on those who follow Jesus. Jesus does not tell us to hope in some future time of blessedness and reward. The words used are present tense, not future: "You are the Salt of the earth, ... You are the light of the world". The disciples are expected, by their action here and now in the world they live in, usher in the reign of God.

The phrase 'salt of the earth' is a common, centuries old expression giving high praise to a person. Our everyday language also refers to people as light. When for example, a valued person dies, we note that the world is a little darker, or a little colder.

Salt and light are basic to human existence. Salt flavors and preserves. Light suffuses and brightens, shows off and shows up and nuances everything. Light gives the world color. Unfortunately, we appreciate the importance and value of light and salt in their absence. They are understood and valued when they return. Without light human life is impossible. Without salt the food that sustains us is flat.

So what is expected of a Christian... of you and me... We are the new Israel, the fulfillment of the ancient prophecy with concrete specificity, whose light must rise in the insipid darkness, and shine forth with mercy and compassion toward all peoples, with preferential concern for the hungry, the oppressed and the poor.

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL (AAA) 2020

Excerpt from Archbishop, Salvatore Cordileone's letter in regards to the AAA:

Parish assessment for St. John the Evangelist this year is \$39,090.00

The theme for this year' Archdiocesan Annual Appeal is "Use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace." By responding to God's call to stewardship and grace and participating in the Annual Appeal, we are collectively able to support such varied and critical needs as parish ministries, youth and young adult, our schools, priestly formation, ministering to the poor, social ministries, and the greater Church, among others.

As the result of your generosity and that of thousands of your fellow members of our Archdiocese, we provide critical assistance and resources to people in need - and do so in a way that our individual parishes would not be able to on their own.

Our mission as a Church and people of the Catholic faith continue, and the needs are ongoing, so I ask you to participate in this year's Annual Appeal. Your contribution reinforces the vital nature of our greater mission, enhances our ability to teach, spread, and celebrate the faith, and makes a tangible difference in the lives of countless individuals. *All gifts to the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal, regardless of amount, are greatly appreciated and will be very beneficial.* God bless you.

Salt of the earth, light of the world

Jesus proclaims to all who wish to follow him that they are to be light to the world, and salt of the earth. These are powerful images, they are a constant challenge to dare to become for God and others that which Jesus was, himself, the light of the world and salt of the earth.

To be a light to the world is to illumine others with God's truth and mercy. Likewise, that same light must expose the sins of pride, envy, meanness, indifference, injustice and anything else that blinds us from the divine truth and mercy that Christ has gained for us.

In Jesus' light, we see the source of all light. We see the Father's creative love; we receive Jesus' redeeming love; we experience the Spirit's inspiring love. Still, it is not enough to let this light shine out upon others: we must also allow that light to penetrate and permeate every fiber of our very being. The greatest encouragement that our God-given light can give to others is to show to others how that light is, in fact and at first, transforming us.

To be salt is to accept that fact that our efforts - or lack thereof - to follow Christ do have an impact upon others, regardless of whether we are always aware of that impact or not. There are times in our lives when we lose our taste for God and/or the things of God: more frequently than not this is displayed by our own feelings of inadequacy and/or indifference when it comes to practicing virtue. We all have our moments when we are tempted to believe that our day- to-day efforts at following Christ simply don't make a positive difference in the lives of others, let alone in God's overall plan for salvation. Unlike salt, however, we can regain that taste for doing what is righteous and good through prayer, the sacraments and, perhaps most practically, by doubling - even tripling - our efforts at practicing those very virtues that we are tempted to cease pursuing.

When we are tempted to wonder about our own efficacy in witnessing to the power and promise of God's creative, redeeming, inspiring, healing and challenging love in our everyday, imperfect lives we should take consolation and encouragement about something which is true about both light and salt: even the smallest amounts of each go a very, very long way.